Walden Drei, R.R. #1
West Lafayette, Ind.
January 29, 1963

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route #7
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg;

For two weeks I have struggled with my notes, wits and conscience, trying to draw into an acceptable whole the matters which we discussed on the train. Our meeting and discussion were, for me, a fantastic miracle because they gave me the impetus to cast aside many non-essentials and concentrate on the two things of prime concern to me...my family and my country (family first..old-style Chinese!). I shall endeavor to repay the fates by attempting to find outlets for your books; if you will send me your lists and prices I shall go to work immediately.

In re-reading my original rough draft to you, a letter in which I tried to clarify my own thinking re a major construct pertaining to the assassination, it became immediately apparent that I had tried to underplay my chief thesis and to overemphasize a host of detail. I shall try not to repeat that error. That letter was written long before I met you but my task is no easier because you won't cotton to my thinking according to certain statements you made on "Probe" in Indianapolis. If you will give me the kind reception via mail that you did in person, however, in time I may convert you as I have myself after thousands of hours of intensive and dedicated perusal of the so-called records.

> Basic Thesis: The Kennedy assassination was only one of a number of efforts to push our country in a downward direction in order to hasten the day when we will (may) fall into the hands of a group, or groups, who do not have America's interests in mind. In an extremely complicated, efficient and well-organized manner the very-far-left utilized its infiltration of the extreme right, retaliatory groups, secret government groups and some not so secret and, using a sort of reverse psychology, guided the assassination planning to its bitter culmination, reaping unexpected rewards in terms of time saved and lives ruined.

Yes, "Virginia", there is a red-suited conspiracy..and the reason you don't want to believe it is that you don't want to be thought of as "one of those nuts". You're liberal, intelligent and educated..and you don't want to believe anything those far-right nitwits believe. You'd never dream of looking for communists next door or under the bed or, God forbid, in your government..and if you did, you would just shrug if you found one, saying, "live and let live". Right? I "thought" that way myself until several personal experiences in Peace organizations plus my Kennedy assassination research convinced me to really look, really listen.

You stated, on Probe a few weeks ago, that you felt there were no international aspects to the assassination, but I say there must be because there is no other explanation possible under the circumstances. What are the circumstances?

A popular president is shot in a likely place by a likely candidate who is himself shot by another likely candidate with the result that a heterogeneous group of prominent government officials and well qualified attorneys make idiots of themselves with a formless snow job while the new chief of state marches predictably into a series of international booby-traps. Could anything be meater? Meanwhile, our Greek chorus (the Birchites), whose leader just sounds loony) is singing the blue truth but off-key, so we're not listening. Heroes never listen, they just gallop into doom. (Cui Bono? Not us!)

.... Mr. W., when I outlined this notion of the extreme-left infiltration of the extreme right to Mr. Robert Gordon, Secretary of the Indiana Anti-Defamation League on the Wednesday after meeting you, I must have hit the right note because he immediately asked me to name one man who would typify this sort of modus operandi and I immediatel; came back with "Robert Welch'!! We both laughed because it seemed ridiculous and frightening. Mr. Gordon told me that ADL has for the past three or four years (since the assassination?) been investigating and researching both extremes. Welch actually does do more good for communism than Gus Hall or Aptheker (sp?) with his tactics because he makes anti-communism so laughable and so despicable; we no longer allow ourselves to really comprehend what it's all about.

Please understand, when I began I was just going to do a simple little analysis of Oswald's wife and mother. When I got through reading Marina's testimony I knew I had a tiger by the tail. Her "witnessing", her haughtiness, audacity and intelligence, came whistling down through the cold type like the Snow Queen about to make a landing. As a woman I was fascinated, as a psychologist intrigued; what kind of woman was this? The other witnesses' testimony and the correspondence from Russia held me equally spellbound. For many months I read and re-read all the Russian letters, all Lee Oswald's material..I attempted to list several patterns which kept recurring, especially numbers. Variations of two and five, 20 and fifty, two hundred and five hundred etc, repeatedly tantalized me (when I found out the other day that Oswald had Midland 2550 written in his notebook and Ruby had Newton 2550 in his I wasn't even surprised). I read reams of Russian literature, all referred to in Marina's letters, and more patterns began to emerge. It was inevitable that I reserve a small corner of my thinking for the possibility that Mrs. Oswald was an agent....from the 888 page report any half-wit could tell that Mr. Oswald was at least one somebody's man and from careful reading of reports and testimony in the main work it seemed likely that he was a double agent who spent much time in the practice of brinksmanship.

It seemed to me every time I picked up a new article or book on the assassination the author had spent..wasted..untold time belaboring the point that the Warren Commission was wrong. Obviously! It seemed plausible from the beginning that it was a conspiracy, that Oswald and Ruby were somehow connected,;that the FBI, CIA, Secret Service, Warren staff and some commission members as well as the president knew it was a conspiracy and felt they had the right to "protect" the public even at their own expense. We, the public, can't even quite judge them on

this or fault them on this because we do not know all the facts. It's exactly this, of course, that most of us want to complain about. As you said on page 346 of Whitewash (I) "Is there, in fact, now any basic question other than who the assassins are?" Why don't they admit it was a conspiracy..are they trying to protect the assassins? Surely not. Themselves? They've been hit broadside from all sides. The CIA ..most likely candidate for skullduggery at the crossroads? It's suffered a few blows from both parties and yet stands (or skulks, as the case may be). So, who are the assassins...and who charted their intricate maneuverings, I kept asking myself.

In late spring, right before I laid my research aside for the summer because of family obligations, I began reading all the material on Bernard Weissman because Jack Ruby had made such a big deal over Mr. Weissman's ad, Welcome, Mr. Kennedy. In delving into the whole Larrie Schmidt, Larry Jones, CUSA, AMBUS business I was intrigued with their whole monkey-business of infiltrating the right-wing organizations ..which reminded me of the funny story about CORE or SNNC infiltrating a Virginia Citizen's Council and gaining control of it. Something about the whole bit plagued me,though ...I had remembered Larrie Schmidt bragging in a letter to his buddies in Munich that he had become a hero overnight by organizing a demonstration against Stevenson...and I remembered a chant that some demonstrators had sung, (not exact) .."Kennedy's heart will stop...Stevenson will.....???? and they will burn, burn, burn", on October 24/63.I had always thought this an extremely peculiar chant. I now also think it peculiar that some of Marina's mail used words that indicated fire, burn, heat etc...perhaps there are no connections among many of these activities, but if one begins to believe there might be contacts or signals through the Oswalds from several directions (which is at least logical), then one cannot help at least check dates and places and activities in all these groups and with all these individuals and see what they did as well as what they said. Incidentally, no one has made anything of the fact that Anna Meller was the only American listed in Marina's Russian address book and that various forms of Robert were listed with either house no.#7 or apt. # 7. Marina met Robert Fitzpatric at Battle Wharf, Ala., they had a long talk in Russian while Oswald was speaking to the seminarians and on Aug. 7th he wrote her a letter speaking of the visit and making a number of literary references which were extremely unseemly for a Jesuit priest to have made to any woman. Oswald obviously disliked him. Several days after the assassination the priest sent a long, very proficient report on the summer visit to the FBI and the Secret Service. In it he made several nice remarks about Marina and several unkind ones about Oswald.

Ruby, to me, is the enigma..he had a fantastic number of contacts, many of whom could lead us into any number of dazzling possibilities. I have yet to really analyze a lot of his material. He certainly appears to be a case of con man getting conned, however. It is obvious he had contacts with Oswald (perhaps not direct ones) and I think, not only with Weissman, Schmidt et al., but with CIA activities in the Dominican Republic as well as Cuba (check Davidson, California designer, representative of Oleg Cassini). His 'friend' Joe Cody, Leavell's partner wasn't chained to Oswald when he was shot, he was out flying his plane that weekend. When he 'accidentally' came down at Lake Bisteneau did he meet Ferrie at a town called Ringold (near Shreveport and the lake) before Ferrie drove down to Alexandria and then back to N.O.?Did Ferrie carry any extra passengers..or money? Why did Oswald have Cody's nephew's telehone no.? Was Oswald headed for the bus the nephew drove to Shreveport in order to escape from his "job" as decoy? Finally, did Ruby get into the jail at precisely the right moment via the ambulance the police had on hand?

And what about the $25.55 Ruby sent back to 'Little Lynn', according to the Western Union man's ~~ex~~ testimony. No wonder Karen Bennet Carlin said Jack was nervous and she had to call him two or three times (at exactly 10;50..why does everybody remember that?)...maybe that amount was the signal..maybe Oswald and Ruby were playing the dangerous game of double agent and Ruby had to look as if he was still playing, hoping to God he could get off with his friends the police and Texas justice. Did you know that a Bruce and a Don Osbrink were mentioned in the same paragraph in a missive Larrie Schmidt sent to Bernie in Munich? Maybe it means nothing,,....but the more I read the Schmidt..Weissman..Jones correspondence the more interesting it becomes.

Frankly, Harold, I think Shaw was trying, in his role of international bon vivant and constant traveler to do a very large job for the CIA (I think he was a top, top CIA man) and he was trying to find out about the assassination plot, manipulating people and money like mad, in order to find out more about it. I think his whips, masks, etc. etc. were part of his international role-playing (he may even have been the man mentioned in the Stephan Ward--Christine Keeler ploy which had strong security undertones because of the Russian agent involved)..I think Ramsey Clark's classification of Clay Shaw as a nice man could only arise from his knowledge that Shaw is doing his duty for his country, a great and honorable thing to any Southerner no matter how the game is played.,I think Shaw's resignation from the International Trade Company(?) in October '68 before Garrison really got to work on the assassination is significant, as well as the fact that he held up very well physically until he could see that his country would even sacrifice him on the altar of governmental secracy. Until the CIA cleans house...and tracks down the whole collection of networks responsible...any president will claim executive privilege no matter how the whispers mount. Garrison certainly appears to be a man of integrity ..and he has worked very hard and ferreted out a good deal. He has a right to fight "the invisible government" but this is dangerous for our country as well as for him. Don't misunderstand....I think he should do it, but a little delaying action wouldn't hurt. Unless he's positive of all the facts about Shaw's real activities, everybody involved will be hurt.

To return to my original thesis, it seems necessary to add that the constant friction all over the world between ourselves and sundry groups and governments belies the degree of coldness of the cold war.. we've been kidding ourselves..and the Bay of Pigs, the missile crisis, the Middle Eastern mess, the plethora of political assassinations and top level governmental scandals all point to the fact that there's a volcano under the iceberg. The last stages of the international pokergame are upon us and now it's "down and dirty"; the stakes are high..and nobody wins. I hold the notion that the unmilitant middle had been "turned off" in regard to the real dangers existing in our country by the government's erroneous assumption that we should be protected (and it should be protected) and, also, by the far right's caterwauling.(It's the old story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf.....what a perfect psychological device for catching us unprepared and unbelieving.) Kennedy's death was, for us, the prelude I am sure it had been prepared for a long time and I am quite sure the Russians really in control (the ones who deposed Kruschev several months later) were somehow involved. America may be a sick society..but it's operating in a sicker world.

On that uncheerful note I close. My large store of innate optimism is dwindling away under the pressures of Pueblo, Vietnam faragoes, Castro purges of his po-Russki friends, young men I know leaving for Canada and young men I don't know for Vietnam, old peace groups conquored by old communists and new young radicals captured by more of same...and most of all by the knowledge that we still don't know the facts on Kennedy's death.

Cordially
Wendy E. Lewis

Please read & forward. Thanks M.L.

My note to Mr. Garrison is as follows:

Last March my daughter Elizabeth called me from Baton Rouge to tell me she had worked with Perry Ray Russo in 1965 when she and a friend, both students at LSU, were employed by Mr. Mike Ogden of New Orleans to do general office work and help set up a camp for a Young Republican group. This was a summer job and the girls were to have had an apartment in Slidell but that fell through and my daughter called to ask if she could live in the house with the Ogdens and work in New Orleans. After speaking with Mrs. Ogden we gave our consent to this arrangement. Later I discovered the plans were changed because some money Mr. Ogden was expecting did not arrive. My daughter was paid only for the first week or two (Mr. Ogden owes each girl several hundred dollars) In spite of the fact the Ogdens had no money they had a Mexican maid, lived well and occasionally went out of town in a private plane. My daughter explained that Mr. Ogden's father had once held a large amount of property in Cuba and she believed that Mike Ogden had lived there, but they had lost all their money when Castro came on. Mrs. Ogdens family were well-to-do, but the couple didn't want to borrow from relatives. Mr. Ogden was waiting for some large sum, such as $55,000, to come to him so that he could develop a piece of property someplace and when he received it he would pay them. During that summer she did not mention Mr. Russo; she talked about the letters she wrote to several extremists (I believe General Walker was contacted) and far-righters asking them to speak to the Young Republican campers and she talked about the busy life the Ogdens led and the fact that she tried to talk Spanish to the Mexican maid who indicated she was not being paid either. My husband and I were a little amused at the thought of our daughter working for these two "Vanity Fair" individuals, especially because she was more interested, she said, in the experience than the money (fortunately) and because we are Democrats.

When she called to tell me about Russo because she knew I had been researching certain aspects of the assassination case, she couldn't tell me much except that Perry was a sort of fair-haired boy around the Ogden house. He used Mrs. Ogdens car, was given money when no one else was and was catered to by Mr. Ogden. Because this couple had been having such a hard time financially that Mrs. Ogden had to do a lot of menial work to set up the camp, my daughter found this a little ridiculous. In a later call she told me that Mike Ogden had saved Mr. Russo's life when he tried to commit suicide (it was not clear when this attempt was made). At the time my daughter was living with the Ogdens she was engaged (and is now married) to a charming young man and perhaps, therefore, was not as interested in Mr. Russo's activities as she might have been otherwise.

* This note is in addition to a letter I sent last March in care of, I believe, a Mr. Gervich. Mr. H. Weisberg asked that I again forward this information as Mr. Gervich had resigned and perhaps the letter was not utilized.

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